



# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON  
FLORIDA

June 7, 2016

Ms. Gina McCarthy, Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest  
Washington, District of Columbia 20460

**RE: Okaloosa County - EPA - Natural Estuary Program**

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of Okaloosa County's efforts to obtain a federal grant. The goal of their proposed project is to establish an Estuary Program for the Choctawhatchee watershed. I respectfully request your consideration of this organization's application for federal funding.

Okaloosa County has continued to be an ardent advocate for conservation programs within the Gulf community and has successfully initiated and implemented strategies to safeguard their natural resources and environment. If funded, the County seeks to develop a much needed Comprehensive Estuary Program within the Choctawhatchee watershed. This proactive environmental initiative will create a legacy program improving their water quality, habitat and natural resources as well as producing much needed economic benefits for the community.

Again, I encourage your consideration of this worthy cause. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Sincerely,

BN/jm

CC: Ms. Mary Louise Hester, Regional Director, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson